DEPARTMENT OF PEOPLE, SPORT AND CULTURE

Northern Territory Government Arts Grants Program

Grant Guidelines 2026-27

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Acknowledgement of Country

The Northern Territory Government respectfully acknowledges the First Nations people of this country and recognises their continuing connections to their lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to their leaders past, present and emerging.

Whilst this document uses the term 'Aboriginal', we respectfully acknowledge that Torres Strait Islander peoples are First Nations people living in the Northern Territory. Therefore, strategies, services and outcomes relating to 'Aboriginal' Territorians should be read to include both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Territorians.

COVER IMAGES:

Image 1: Detail of Warren Garawirrtja Galumbamirr, Night Sky, 2023

Image 2: Circus Troupe prformance at Corrugated Iron Youth Arts. Photograph by David Bradley.

Image: Top End Clown Troupe. Photograph by David Bradley.

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Information and assistance

Key contacts

For more information on applying to the Northern Territory Arts Grants Program, please contact Arts NT, Department of People, Sport and Culture.

Free call 1800 678 237

Email: arts.office@nt.gov.au

Darwin office

Level 1, JHV2
Jape Homemaker Village
356 Bagot Road, Millner
Phone: (08) 8999 8981

Postal address

Arts NT
Department of People, Sport and Culture
GPO Box 3970, Dawin, NT 0801

Contact

Phone: (08) 8999 8981
Free call: 1800 678 237
Email: arts.office@nt.gov.au

Accessibility

If you have accessibility needs that affect your ability to apply for a grant, contact Arts NT to discuss alternative application methods. Integrated disAbility Action may also be able to provide assistance with applying.

Darwin office

Nightcliff Community Centre
4/18 Bauhinia Street, Nightcliff

Postal address

PO Box 645
Nightcliff NT 0814

Contact

Phone: (08) 8948 5400
Email: gm@idainc.org.au
Web: idainc.org.au

Interpreter services

If you have difficulty with the English language and would like an interpreter, you can contact the following services for assistance.

Aboriginal Interpreter Service NT

Phone: 1800 334 944
Email: ais@nt.gov.au

Interpreting and Translating Service NT

Phone: (08) 8999 8506
Email: itsnt@nt.gov.au

National Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

Phone: 131 450

Stay up to date

scan here

Subscribe to our Bite Size Arts News to stay up to date on current grant programs, as well as other Territory and Australian Government updates and initiatives.

GrantsNT

The Northern Territory Arts Grants Program (AGP) is administered through GrantsNT, the Northern Territory (NT) Government's online grants management system. All applications must be submitted via Grants NT, at grantsnt.nt.gov.au.

If you are a first-time user, you will need to register to create an account and setup an individual or organisation profile.

Note: Individuals with ABNs must apply through an organisation profile. The GrantsNT website has a comprehensive help section to guide you, and you can contact Arts NT for assistance.

Arts NT

Arts NT is a business unit within the Department of People, Sport and Culture (DPSC) and is responsible for the development, growth and promotion of the arts sector of the NT by investing in and activating arts and culture opportunities across the Territory.

Arts NT provides funding, resources, and strategic guidance to artists, arts workers, arts and cultural organisations and community groups, fostering a vibrant and diverse arts sector that contributes to a thriving social, cultural, and economic future of the NT.

Arts NT works to enhance the visibility and accessibility of the arts, encourages community engagement and participation, and supports the professional development of individuals and the broader arts sector.

This is achieved through:

- Funding - activating arts initiatives, expanding access to and participation in arts and culture, and encouraging innovation and excellence.
- Advice – providing arts, culture and creative industry policy, strategies, research and advice to the arts sector and NT Government.
- Partnerships – leveraging opportunities across sectors and programs to build capacity, sustainability, job and career development, market and profile NT arts and culture, and grow audiences and visitors contributing to a vibrant and thriving arts sector.
- Cultural infrastructure - developing and supporting access to affordable arts venues and facilities located within NT Government owned and leased assets.Northern Territory (NT) Government owned and leased assets.

Image: Darwin Musical Theatre performing The Wedding Singers.

Tracks Dance performing Antidode in 2025. Photograph by Duane Preston.

Arts Grants Program

A strong and vibrant arts, culture and creative sector is integral to the development of healthy, thriving communities. Arts and culture improve health and wellbeing, develop the economy and promote inclusivity and diversity. This is achieved through providing opportunities to grow the creative and cultural economy, encouraging artistic excellence and innovation, and expanding access to participation in arts and culture.

Artists at the centre

Artists and arts workers are the heart of our arts, culture and creative sector and contribute value, vibrancy and innovation to the NT. The Arts Grants Program (AGP) strives to support opportunities, initiatives and projects that employ and develop artists and arts workers; recognise, develop, and showcase the value of arts and culture; encourage creativity, imagination and innovation; improve access and participation in arts and culture; and promote the expression of culture through NT stories.

Funding supports NT artists and arts workers, arts organisations and arts initiatives that benefit the NT community and deliver on government strategies, goals and priorities.

Current NT plans and strategies include:

- NT Arts Strategy 2034
- Screen Territory Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026
- Tourism and Events NT Visitor Economy Strategy 2032
- NT Youth Strategy 2023 - 2033
- NT Disability Strategy 2022 - 2032
- NT Education Engagement Strategy 2022 – 2031
- NT Aboriginal Tourism Strategy 2020 – 2030
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- Digital Territory Strategy
- Restoring the Territory Lifestyle Strategy 2025-2028

NT Arts Strategy 2034 and Government priorities

The NT Arts Strategy 2034 sets the long-term direction for arts, culture and creativity in the Territory. It places artists and arts workers at the centre, supporting them to create new work, reach wider audiences, and build sustainable careers across the creative industries.

The Strategy also supports the NT Government's priorities to Restore the Territory Lifestyle, Rebuild the Economy and Reduce Crime. Across urban, regional and remote communities, arts and culture strengthen social connection, support vibrant and safe places, and create pathways for participation, employment and cultural expression.

The strategy is delivered through two 5-year action plans, with the first Action Plan (2026–2030) outlining practical actions to deliver three priorities:

- **EMPOWER** - Invest in people to build a strong, creative and culturally diverse arts sector.
- **CONNECT** - Invest in connecting the arts, culture and creativity to community to grow the creative and cultural life of the Territory.
- **ENRICH** - Invest in audiences and celebrate the value of Territory arts and culture to grow a strong arts, cultural and creative economy.

Image: Arafura Music Collective performing Hearing Double: The Art of Musical Dialogueat the NT Supreme Court. Photography by Paz Tassone.

Arts Grants Program outcomes

The AGP aims to achieve 5 outcomes. Each grant category description identifies the most relevant intended outcomes. Grant applications and acquittals will request information from applicants on how the proposed project supports or achieves relevant outcomes.

Employ	Increase employment opportunities for NT artists and arts workers, ensuring they are paid fairly and appropriately for their work.
Access	Increase access to and participation in arts and culture across the NT, including for Aboriginal people, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and regional and remote communities.
Upskill	Strengthen professional practice, leadership and career development for NT artists and arts workers by increasing skills, knowledge, networks and capabilities.
Create	Support NT artists to develop new work and enable experimentation, innovation and creative risk-taking, including through digital and emerging technologies.
Promote	Profile, showcase and celebrate NT artists and arts and culture to build audiences, markets and sustainable careers.

2025-26 Arts Grants Program statistics

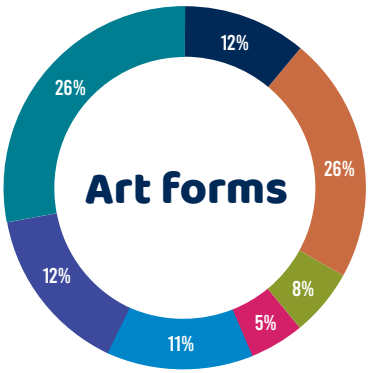
$7.676m invested

200 activities

84 artists

16 arts workers

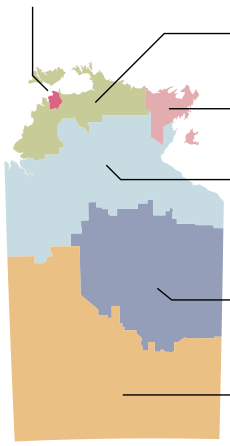
97 arts organisations



- Community arts and cultural Development
- Cross art form (multi arts)
- Dance
- Literature and writing
- Music, including musical theatre and opera
- Theatre, including circus, physical theatre and comedy
- Visual arts, craft and design

Investments

Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield $3,481,155 (45%)



Top End $211,723 (3%)

East Arnhem $174,158 (2%)

Big Rivers $929,733 (12%)

Barkly $267,971 (3%)

Central Australia $1,143,907 (15%)

Territory-wide $1,467,603 (19%)

How Arts NT measures outcomes

Each grant category contributes to one or more of the Arts Grants Program outcomes: **Employ, Access, Upskill, Create and Promote.**

Funding recipients will be required to report on the outcomes relevant to their grant category through their acquittal, case study report, arts statistics template or other reporting requirements set out in the funding agreement.

Depending on the grant category and scale of investment, Arts NT may collect quantitative and qualitative information such as:

- the number of NT artists and arts workers employed, including artist fees paid
- the number and diversity of participants, audiences and communities reached
- skills, leadership and professional development outcomes achieved
- new artworks, creative developments, or projects delivered
- performances, exhibitions, showcases, audience reach and profile outcomes generated.

Arts NT uses this information to evaluate the impact of the Arts Grants Program, strengthen future program design, and demonstrate the social, cultural and economic value of arts investment in the NT.

Why we collect this information

Arts NT collects information through grant applications, funding agreements, acquittals, case studies, arts statistics templates and standard reporting to measure the impact of the Arts Grants Program and ensure NT arts and culture is represented in Territory and national evidence, reporting and policy development.

This information helps Arts NT to:

- demonstrate the value and impact of NT Government investment in arts and culture
- improve future policy, program design and investment decisions
- understand who is creating, participating in, leading and benefiting from arts and culture in the NT
- ensure Territory artists, organisations, audiences and communities are represented in broader cultural reporting and decision-making.

The information collected through the Arts Grants Program helps Arts NT measure how investment in arts and culture contributes to the priorities of the NT Arts Strategy 2034:

- Empower – building creative careers, employment, leadership, cultural capability and strong arts organisations
- Connect – increasing participation, inclusion, community connection and access to arts and culture across the Territory
- Enrich – creating, showcasing and celebrating Territory arts and culture, and strengthening audiences, markets, tourism and the broader creative economy.

It also supports Arts NT to demonstrate how arts investment contributes to broader NT Government priorities, including restoring lifestyle, rebuilding the economy and reducing crime, through stronger community wellbeing, youth engagement, cultural participation, employment, tourism, creative enterprise and safer, more connected communities.

Information collected through the Arts Grants Program may be used by Arts NT, the Department of People, Sport and Culture and the NT Government for:

- program evaluation and performance reporting
- strategic planning and policy development
- annual reporting and investment reporting
- whole-of-government and national arts and cultural data collections and reporting.

This may include reporting for annual reports, grant program reporting, NT Government investment reporting, disability and cultural strategy reporting, national cultural data collections and other statistical or policy reporting relating to arts participation, workforce, accessibility, cultural activity and Aboriginal arts and cultural outcomes.

Art Forms

The AGP is responsible for supporting the creation and presentation of artwork across the following art forms:

Circus and physical theatre	*encompasses both the creation and presentation of circus and physical theatre. Physical theatre is movement-based expression with or without music and with or without narrative impetus.*
Comedy	*includes the creation and presentation of written or spoken artistic material intended to be humorous or amusing.*
Community arts and cultural development	*contribute to positive community wellbeing and social cohesion, is focussed on the creative processes and relationships developed between artists and communities and ensures all Territorians have access and opportunity to participate in a broad range of arts and cultural activity.*
Cross art form (multi-arts)	*includes the creation and presentation of artistic performances or works that involve multiple art forms, or arts projects that are not art form specific.*
Dance	*includes the creation and presentation of dance across all dance forms, such as ballet, classical, contemporary or traditional cultural dance.*
Digital art	*encompasses a wide range of techniques and outputs and can include any art practice, as long as digital technology is used in its creation.*
Experimental and emerging arts	*explore new approaches to materials or techniques and structures, concepts and forms in the creation, presentation and experience of art and culture. Work can be highly experimental within an existing arts practice, collaborative across several arts practices or involve collaborations with non-art disciplines and partnerships that explore research, science, technology, the environment or politics.*
Literature and writing	*include the creation and presentation of creative writing such as poetry, prose, drama, fiction, scriptwriting, writing for children and young people and non-fiction writing.*
Music	*includes the creation and presentation of contemporary, traditional, classical, experimental, instrumental, electronic, live and recorded music and compositions.*
Musical theatre and opera	*include musical performance, composition and presentation of musical theatre or opera in which there is a relatively even balance between the musical and the theatrical elements.*
Theatre	*includes plays and scripted work, cabaret, installation theatre performance, puppetry, media-based theatre work, live art, and contemporary inter-disciplinary performance.*
Visual arts, craft and design	*encompasses a wide range of genres including visual arts (e.g. painting, sculpture, installation, video art), curating, art writing, craft and design (e.g. jewellery, ceramics, weaving), and interdisciplinary arts (e.g. installation, multi-media, experimental practice).*

Roles

For the purposes of the AGP, the following classifications are used to define roles:

- artist
  - early-career artist
  - mid-career artist
  - established artist
- creative practitioner
- arts worker
- arts manager
- producer
- technical production
- board member

In addition to the above, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released the first edition of the Occupation Standard Classification for Australia (OSCA), which has officially replaced the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

The OSCA is a skill-based classification of jobs and occupations, incorporating the concepts of 'skill level' and 'skill specialisation'. Arts NT will be using the OSCA classification to analyse the NT's arts industry labour market and identifying needs for education and training and job placement.

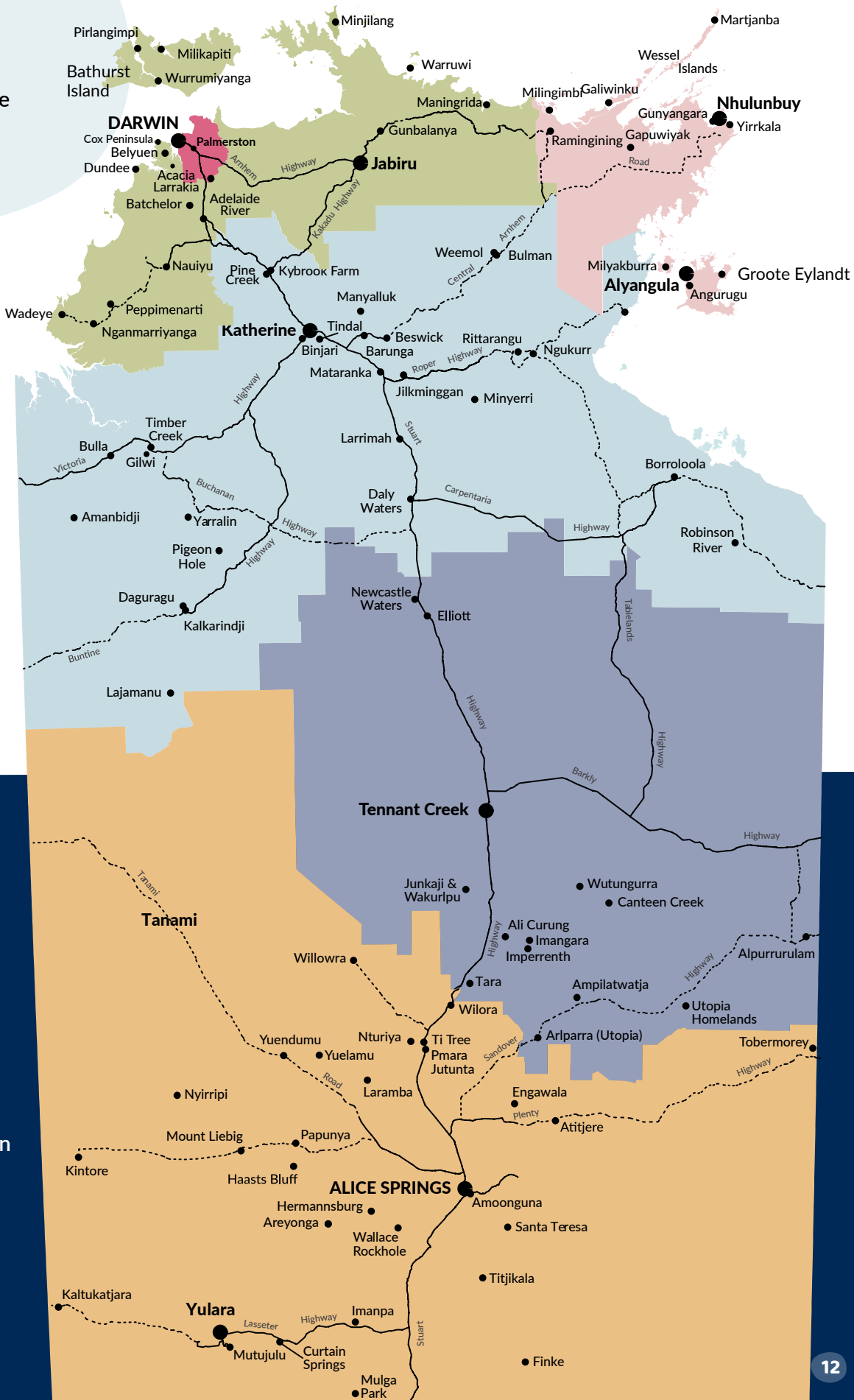
For a full listing of applicable OSCA codes visit OSCA - Occupation Standard Classification for Australia - www.abs.gov.au.

Image: Darwin Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Program captured during the 2025 Darwin Fringe Festival performance of Gene Tree: Listen. Now. Again in collaboration with St Martin's Youth Theatre and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts.

Regions

For the purposes of the AGP, the Territory's regions are defined as per the following map

Some grants in the program refer to additional funding or application prioritisation based on whether the applicant lives in a remote or very remote location To find out the classification of the area in which you live, please contact Arts NT or visit ABS Maps - Australian Bureau of Statistics.



Legend

- Barkly
- Big Rivers
- Central Australia
- Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield
- East Arnhem
- Top End

Grants at a glance

Category	Funding	Eligibility	Description	Key Dates*
Quick Response	$1,000 for Materials or Travel	Individuals	Support artists and arts workers to access arts and cultural opportunities that arise at short notice.	**Open all year round until** 31 May 2027, or until budget expended
	$2,000 for Professional Development		Support artists and arts workers to access career development opportunities that build skills, knowledge, networks, and leadership capability.	
Small Arts Grants	$5,000	Individuals Groups Organisations	Supports small arts projects that increase participation in and access to arts and culture across the NT.	**Round 1** **Open:** 1 October **Close:** 2 November **Round 2** **Open:** 1 February **Close:** 1 March
Art Equipment	$10,000	Organisations	Supports arts organisations to purchase equipment used for the creation, presentation, promotion and sale of artwork.	**Round 1** **Open:** 3 August **Close:** 14 September **Round 2** **Open:** 2 November **Close:** 14 December
Artists in Schools	$10,000	All NT Schools	Connects professional artists with students, teachers and school communities to strengthen student engagement, attendance, creativity and wellbeing, while creating paid employment opportunities for NT artists.	**Open:** 1 February **Close:** 15 March
NXT Gen ARTS	$13,000	Individuals (18-25 years)	Supports structured career development for early career artists aged 18-25 through a work experience placement with a host NT arts organisation or approved creative industry business.	**Round 1** **Open:** 1 October **Close:** 2 November **Round 2** **Open:** 15 February **Close:** 15 March
Arts Projects	$30,000	Individuals Groups Organisations	Supports projects that create, develop, present and promote NT arts and culture, while strengthening artist capability, creative careers, community connection and audience engagement.	**Round 1** **Open:** 3 August **Close:** 14 September **Round 2** **Open:** 2 November **Close:** 14 December **Round 3** **Open:** 15 February **Close:** 30 March

*Key dates are subject to change.

Grants at a glance continued

Category	Funding	Eligibility	Description	Key Dates*
Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships	Non-competitive-Expression of Interest/ Direct negotiation	Individuals Groups Organisations	Supports strategic investment that strengthens the arts, cultural and creative industries sector and delivers on the NT Arts Strategy 2034 and NT Government priorities.	**Open all year round until** 31 May 2027, or until budget expended
First Nations Capacity Building	Non-competitive-Expression of Interest/ Direct negotiation	Organisations	Supports strategic and targeted investment in First Nations-led arts, culture and creative industries projects that strengthen capacity, leadership and capability.	**Open all year round until** 31 May 2027, or until budget expended

*Key dates are subject to change.

Image: Ifa Shiddiq with her Debut Comic Anthology: Zest for Life.

Quick Response

Grant objective

Support artists and arts workers to access career development and creative opportunities that arise at short notice.

Examples:

- Travel costs to participate in a showcase, marketplace, or conference attendance that arises at short notice
- Opportunities to present or promote artworks and arts and cultural activities at short notice, including travel costs and freight
- Participation in specialist workshops, arts industry forums, unaccredited learning activities, or national marketplaces and showcases - where there is a clearly defined professional development outcome

Funding available

Up to $1,000 per applicant for materials or travel, per financial year. Available to individuals.

Up to $2,000 per applicant for professional development opportunities, per financial year. Available to individuals.

If your activity involves travel and you live in a 'Very Remote Australia' area, you may be eligible for up to $500 in additional assistance per financial year to help cover travel to or from that location.

If your activity involves international travel, you must speak to an Arts NT Development Officer before submitting the application.

Key information

Opening and closing date for applications	Open all year until 31 May 2027 or budget expended
Assessment	Assessed by the department and assessed as received Activities involving international travel or training will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
Notification	within 20 working days of complete submission
Activity start date	Activity cannot start before execution of the funding agreement
Acquittal	Random audit acquittal

Grant outcomes

Employ I Upskill I Access I Profile

Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements to have your application assessed:

- Must meet the General Eligibility Requirements
- At least 50% of the total activity budget must come from sources other than Arts NT. This may include applicant cash, earned income, confirmed partner contributions, other funding or confirmed in-kind support.
- Arts organisations may only administer this grant when supporting applicants with accessibility requirements
- If applying for professional development, applicants must show how the proposed opportunity will support their own career, as opposed to the development of others
- Essential support material required to complete the application:
  - Confirmation of involvement
  - Artistic material – CV and relevant examples of work
  - Budget and budget support material – including quotes for expenses using grant funds over $1,000

Small Arts Grants

Grant objective

Supports small arts projects that increase participation in and access to arts and culture.

Examples of activities:

- Development and presentation of creative projects or works
- Community-based arts activities, workshops or participatory projects
- Collaboration between artists, collectives or small organisations
- Activities that support emerging artists or those at an early stage of their career
- Pilot or seed projects that may lead to future larger initiatives

Funding available

Up to $5,000 per application, per financial year. Available to individuals, groups and organisations.

Grant outcomes

Employ I Create I Access I Profile

Key information

Opening and closing date for applications	**Round 1** Open 1 October 2026 Close 2pm, 2 November 2026
	Round 2 Open 1 February 2027 Close 2pm, 1 March 2027
Assessment	by Panel
Notification	**Round 1** from 30 November 2026
	Round 2 from 30 March 2027
Activity start date	**Round 1** Activity must start on or after 1 January 2027
	Round 2 Activity must start on or after 1 May 2027
Acquittal	Case study report due 3 months after completion of the approved activity

Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements to have your application assessed:

- Must meet the General Eligibility Requirements
- The activity must have a clear arts and cultural outcome
- Arts NT does not fund the entire cost of an activity. Applicants must demonstrate funding from other sources to cover the complete cost of their project.
- Arts organisations funded through five-year funding agreements are not eligible to apply
- Essential support material required to complete the application:
  - Artistic material – CV and relevant examples of work by lead artist
  - Budget and budget support material – including quotes for expenses using grant funds over $1,000
  - Letter of support where relevant to the activity

Art Equipment

Grant objective

Support for arts organisations to purchase new equipment that is used for the production, presentation, promotion and sale of NT art works at arts facilities in the NT.

In assessment, priority may be given to Remote and Very Remote arts organisations and Aboriginal-owned art centres where the equipment will strengthen access, production, presentation or sales capability.

Examples:

- Arts production equipment (e.g. kilns, printing presses, amplifiers) for creating and developing work
- Arts presentation equipment (e.g. sound systems, gallery fittings) for displaying work
- Furniture and tools for storage, display or documentation (e.g. drawer, display units, stretchers)

Key information

Opening and closing date for applications	**Round 1** Open 3 August 2026 Close 2pm, 14 September 2026
	Round 2 Open 2 November 2026 Close 2pm, 14 December 2026
Assessment	by Panel
Notification	**Round 1** from 26 October 2026 **Round 2** from 15 February 2027
Activity start date	Equipment may only be purchased after execution of funding agreement
Acquittal	Case study report due 3 months after completion of the approved activity

Funding available

Up to $10,000 per application, per financial year. Available to organisations.

Applications for the same or substantially similar equipment will not be funded where the organisation has previously received Arts NT funding for that equipment and has not demonstrated a clear additional need or expansion in use.

Grant outcomes

Access

Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements to have your application assessed:

- Must meet the General Eligibility Requirements
- The grant may fund up to 100% of the total eligible project cost
- Expenditure must comply with the Buy Local Plan
- Consumables (e.g. paint, staples, paper, fuel) and vehicles (e.g. trailers) are not eligible expenses
- Applications for equipment that will be fixed to a facility must include written approval from the building owner
- Equipment becomes an asset of the organisation for use by members and those authorised by the organisation
- Essential support material required to complete the application:
  - Budget and budget support material – including quotes for expenses using grant funds over $1,000. If the arts organisation is registered for GST, all expenses should be listed excluding GST

Artists in Schools

Grant objective

Connect professional artists with students, teachers and school communities to strengthen student engagement, attendance, creativity and wellbeing, while creating paid employment opportunities for NT artists.

Program overview

Artists in Schools (AiS) provides funding to schools to engage professional artists to co-design and deliver a creative project with students, teachers and the wider school community. The program supports innovative learning opportunities through arts and cultural practice and aims to strengthen connections between NT artists, arts organisations, schools and communities.

AiS supports schools to work with artists on projects that build the creative skills, confidence and capability of students and teachers, while contributing to a positive and connected school culture. Projects should involve meaningful engagement with the school community and may include parents, elders, carers and local community members where relevant.

Funding supports the employment of NT artists and the purchase of materials required to deliver the project. Creative projects may include, but are not limited to, the development of a finished artwork, performance, event, installation, exhibition or other creative outcome. Projects may link directly to the arts curriculum, support cross-curriculum learning, or respond to an identified school priority, theme or area of focus.

AiS is jointly funded by the Department of Education and Training, and the Department of People, Sport and Culture.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- creative projects that enhance the school environment, such as murals, sculpture gardens or site-specific artworks
- multimedia and digital arts projects, including installations, documentary films, podcasts, photography or animation
- the creation and presentation of live performance works, including dance, music and theatre
- projects that support cultural learning, storytelling, language or intergenerational knowledge sharing

Image: Mural project at Ross Park Primary School.

Key information

- More detailed guidelines will be available on GrantsNT when applications are open
- An individual school or a group of schools can apply. When applying as a group, one school will need to take the role of making the application through GrantsNT.
- The grant may fund up to 100% of the total eligible project cost.
- Schools must factor the following expenses into their applications:
  - NT artists' wages
  - Artists' materials
  - Travel by artists to and from the site where the artist does not reside in the same area
  - Accommodation for visiting artists
  - Support staff
  - School expenses that relate to the project

Opening and closing date for applications	Open 1 February 2027 Close 2pm, 15 March 2027
Assessment	by Panel
Notification	from 13 April 2027
Activity start date	Activity cannot start before execution of the funding agreement
Acquittal	Case study report due 3 months after completion of the approved activity

Grant outcomes

Employ I Create I Access

Funding available

Up to $7,000 for one school or up to $10,000 for two or more schools. Available to all NT Schools.

Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements to have your application assessed:

- Must meet the General Eligibility Requirements
- The activity must have a clear arts and cultural outcome
- The grant may fund up to 100% of the total eligible project cost
- Artists working with children must hold a current Ochre Card and provide evidence with the application
- Essential support material required to complete the application:
  - Artistic support material - CV and relevant examples of work by lead artist
  - Budget and budget support material – including quotes for expenses using grant funds over $1,000

NXT Gen ARTS

Grant objective

Supports structured career development for early career artists aged 18-25 through a work experience placement with a host NT arts organisation or approved creative industry business. The program aims to provide hands on experience in the creative industries and strengthen employment pathways for young people in the NT arts and culture sector.

Key information

- The work experience placement must be a structured work experience and career development opportunity that is additional to the host organisation's existing staffing structure and not an allocation against an existing position, vacancy or ordinary staffing requirement.
- Applicants must provide a placement plan produced in collaboration with their host organisation, outlining the program structure and expected outcomes.
- If you do not have a host organisation, please submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) so Arts NT can help connect you with one. Arts organisations or creative industries businesses seeking a young artist to host can also submit an EOI to Arts NT.
- Successful recipients will be invited, as a condition of the program, to participate in Arts NT's longitudinal study of emerging artist retention in the NT. Further information about participation and consent requirements will be provided in the funding agreement.
- The study will provide important information to analyse the career trajectories of early career artists supported through NXT Gen Arts program by identifying factors that influence retention or departure from the arts sector in the NT.

Opening and closing date for applications	**Round 1** Open 1 October 2026 Close 2pm, 2 November 2026
	Round 2 Open 15 February 2027 Close 2pm, 15 March 2027
Assessment	by Panel
Notification	**Round 1** from 14 December 2026 **Round 2** from 27 April 2027
Activity start date	Activity cannot start before execution of the funding agreement
Acquittal	Case study report due 3 months after completion of the approved activity

Funding available

Up to $13,000 per application, per financial year ($10,000 for the early career artist and $3,000 for the host organisation) is available to individuals aged 18 to 25.

Grant outcomes

Upskill

Placement outcomes

Managing yourself as a professional artist

- Develop a professional resume, biography and social media profile
- Understand cultural safety, health and wellbeing management

Arts management - the business of being an artist

- Access Creative Workplaces information and resources
- Understand workplace laws, employment award and conditions, and the Fair Work system
- Learn budgeting, invoicing and project financial management
- Apply for, manage and acquit grants, and learn to seek sponsorship or philanthropic support
- Grow the project management skills necessary to develop and deliver an arts project
- Understand intellectual property, copyright, licensing and required insurances

Arts industry - participation and contribution

- Connect with industry bodies, awards and grant programs to stay informed
- Build networks, collaborate and take up professional development opportunities

Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements to have your application assessed:

- Individuals must be aged 18 to 25 years at the time of the work experience placement. Applicants can be 17 years of age to apply with the support of their guardian but must be 18 years of age to sign the funding agreement and begin their placement.
- Applicants must provide a written placement plan, developed with and signed by the host organisation or approved host creative industries business, outlining the placement structure, supervision arrangements and expected outcomes.
- Host organisations may be NT arts organisations or approved NT creative industries businesses with the capacity to provide structured supervision, mentoring and relevant work experience. Contact Arts NT to discuss potential hosts.
- The placement must be continuous and completed as a full-time 3-month work experience placement or part-time placement over a maximum of 6 months. All placements must total 400 hours.
- Applicants cannot be a current full-time or part-time employee of the host organisation. Casual employees may be eligible if the placement involves different duties.
- Essential support material required to complete the application:
    - Artistic material – CV and relevant examples of work
    - Work Experience Placement Plan – developed and signed by the host organisation on a template available on GrantsNT-
    - Statement explaining how the placement will support the applicant's future career as an artist
    - Letters of support from an employer, teacher, lecturer, arts professional or other referee who can speak to the applicant's skills, abilities, achievements and potential. These do not need to be arts specific.
    - Proof of applicant's age

Arts Projects

Grant objective

Supports projects that create, develop, present and promote NT arts and culture, while strengthening artist capability, creative careers, community connection and audience engagement.

Funding available

Applicants can apply for up to $30,000.
Available to individuals, groups and organisations.

Grant outcomes

Employ I Upskill I Create I Access I Profile

Image: Jasmine Story working on her dog puppet for SMOKO, at ERTH Physical and Visual Theatre's workshop, 2025. Photography by Marcus 'Moogie' Costello.

Key information

Opening and closing date for applications	**Round 1** Open 3 August 2026 Close 2pm, 14 September 2026 **Round 2** Open 2 November 2026 Close 2pm, 14 December 2026 **Round 3** Open 15 February 2027 Close 2pm, 30 March 2027
Assessment	by Panel
Notification	**Round 1** from 26 October 2026 **Round 2** from 15 February 2027 **Round 3** from 10 May 2027
Activity start date	**Round 1** Activity must start on or after 1 December 2026 **Round 2** Activity must start on or after 1 March 2027 **Round 3** Activity must start on or after 1 June 2027
Acquittal	Case study report due 3 months after completion of the approved activity

Program overview

EMPOWER - Arts projects that build capability, careers and creative development for NT artists and arts workers. This may include projects that:

- support the research, development or creation of new work
- build the skills, knowledge and professional practice of NT artists and arts workers
- increase mentoring, training and leadership opportunities
- strengthen sustainable career pathways, creative practice and sector capability.

CONNECT - Arts projects that connect arts, culture and creativity with communities across the NT. This may include projects that:

- increase access to and participation in arts and culture for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities
- activate creative spaces, venues and community places
- support regional and community-based arts delivery
- encourage collaboration between artists, arts organisations, community groups and other sectors.

ENRICH - Arts projects that showcase Territory culture, grow audiences and strengthen the visibility of NT arts. This may include projects that:

- present, exhibit, publish, distribute or promote the work of NT artists
- celebrate Territory culture through festivals, events, showcases and cultural activity
- grow audiences and expand access to NT arts through digital or new engagement approaches
- strengthen the profile, reach and market opportunities for NT artists and arts organisations.

Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements to have your application assessed:

- Must meet the General Eligibility Requirements
- Arts NT does not fund the entire cost of an activity. Applicants must demonstrate funding from other sources to cover the complete cost of their project.
- This category does not support the core planning, programming, delivery or operational costs of a Northern Territory festival or major event. Refer to the What is not funded section of this document
- Arts organisations receiving more than $100,000 per annum through the AGP are not eligible to apply to this category. They are also not eligible to act as an administering body for an individual applicant where the proposed activity forms part of the organisation's annual program or core business.
- Individuals who are not sole traders (i.e. do not apply with an ABN) and are applying for more than $15,000, must use an Administering Body
- Essential support material required to complete the application:
  - Confirmation of involvement
  - Artistic material – CV and relevant examples of work
  - Letters of support
  - Budget and budget support material – including quotes for expenses using grant funds over $1,000
  - Project and marketing plan. If the grant value is over $15,000 the project plan must also include a risk assessment and mitigation strategy

Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

The Strategic Initiatives and Partnership (SIP) program supports non-competitive, targeted or invitation-only strategic investment that delivers sector-wide benefits and aligns with the priorities of the NT Arts Strategy 2034 while delivering against NT Government priorities and on agreed national priorities. The SIP program supports activities such as:

- National partnerships to provide services to NT artists and arts organisations that are not readily available in the NT
- National and international showcasing and arts development opportunities that benefit the NT and the arts sector overall
- Providing seed funding for innovative initiatives in support of the NT Arts Strategy 2034

This category is by invitation only. Please contact Arts NT to discuss your proposal in the first instance. Requests for strategic initiatives and partnership funding are evaluated by the department and approved by the delegate.

Image: Developing interactive art skills. Image by Jimmy Bamble.

First Nations Capacity Building

The First Nations Capacity Building (FNCB) program supports sector-wide benefits and strategic outcomes in line with NT Government priorities and identified Aboriginal-led priorities. The FNCB program supports activities such as:

- Capacity building and strategic development initiatives that support a strong, sustainable and culturally safe Aboriginal arts and culture industry
- Capacity building and strategic development for leading NT Aboriginal owned and led arts and culture organisations, peak bodies and events
- Development and delivery of business strategies to strengthen the governance, succession planning, sustainability and capability of Aboriginal organisations to deliver Aboriginal-led arts and culture programs and events
- Training and professional development activities for Aboriginal Board members, artists and arts workers to develop Aboriginal workforce capability and increase employment
- Trialling innovative ways to support the development of First Nations Cultural programs.

This category is by invitation only. Please contact Arts NT to discuss your proposal in the first instance. Requests for First Nations Capacity Building funding are evaluated by the department and approved by the delegate.

Arts Organisations Funding

The Arts Organisations Funding category provides five-year investment to support arts organisations to deliver diverse arts programs and services across artforms and regions. Through the AGP, the NT Government invests more than $5 million each year in 30 arts organisations across the Territory, helping ensure Territorians can access and participate in arts and culture. This investment strengthens the sustainability of the arts sector, supports artists and arts workers, and enriches the cultural life of communities across the NT.

This category is competitive and open for applications every 5 years. Applications to the next 5-year funding round (2030-2034) will open in 2028.

Arts NT top tips

1. Plan and give yourself plenty of time to develop your application
2. Read the guidelines, including the general eligibility requirements, and grant objectives, before contacting Arts NT
3. Provide CVs or published biographies for all the key personnel and include artistic support material where relevant
4. Only include letters of support that are specific to the proposed activity and demonstrate community support
5. Prepare a clear project plan and budget using the Excel budget template provided
6. Prepare and save your application content offline prior to entering it into GrantsNT to avoid losing your content
7. Be brief and concise, avoid repetition and write in plain English
8. Do not assume the assessors know you, your activity, your audience or your previous work
9. Proofread your application and ask someone else to read and consider your application against the grant outcomes and objectives
10. If applying through an Administering Body, plan sufficient time for the Administering Body to review and endorse your application in GrantsNT. Once the Administering Body has done so, you then need to submit the application
11. If unsuccessful, seek feedback from Arts NT on how to strengthen future applications

Notes

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT